

EXHIBIT

16

DATE

1-29-09

HB

253

Sternberg, Doug**From:** Kathleen Stachowski [wildbison@bresnan.net]**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2009 11:05 AM**To:** Sternberg, Doug**Subject:** HB 253 public comment

Dear Doug Sternberg:

Yesterday I sent the message below to everyone on the House FWP committee (everyone with e-mail, that is). Perhaps you would be so good as to get this message to those folks who don't have an e-mail account...thanks so much for your help. Kathleen

Dear ...

If you haven't been to Yellowstone in May to watch the antics of bison calves in their play groups, I urge you to go--you'll laugh until you cry, and you'll come away knowing that you've witnessed something truly special. We Montanans are privileged to share our state (in theory, anyhow) with the wildest of wild bison--the genetically-distinct Yellowstone herd. I've spent a great deal of time in the park marveling at these animals, and also at the hoards of tourists from around the country and the world who line up to watch and photograph them. Unfortunately, after last year's unprecedented slaughter by the State of Montana and the Feds, it might be more difficult to find concentrations of bison even in the park.

I'm writing to urge you to support HB 253, the Montana Wild Buffalo Recovery and Conservation Act of 2009. This measure is desperately needed if we are to save this national treasure for future generations--now more than ever, after the decimation of the herd last winter and after a decade that has seen thousands of wild bison slaughtered for no scientifically-supported reason. It's time for the destructive politics of the past to disappear; it's time for a new, enlightened management model, one that respects bison as native Montana wildlife managed by wildlife professionals, one that respects private property and the citizens who are stakeholders in the wild bison issue. Please ensure that the unique and wild genetics of this herd are preserved for their own sake and for future generations of Montanans, Americans, and global citizens. Seldom are you asked to do something so far-reaching--please support HB 253.

Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Stachowski

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1/27/2009